and Drug Control Administraion of the State and this is also covered by that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. Next Question. Question No. 225.

New talent in sports

*225. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA:†

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's programme to find out new male talent in cricket, hockey and football;

(b) what steps Government propose to take to encourage women's hockey and women's cricket; and

(c) what is Government's programme to ensure better performance by the Indian contingent in the forthcoming Olympics at Seoul?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN WELFARE (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

Although 'sports' is a State subject under the Constitution of India, the Central Government has in operation certain schemes for spotting and nurturing of talent which, except where specified apply equally to boys and girls. While these schemes are not meant specially for promotion of cricket, hockey and football, all of them cover the disciplines of hockey, most of them cover football and some also cricket. These are:—

(1) The National Coaching Scheme operated by the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports (NSNIS) which functions under the Society for National Institutes of Physical Education and Sports (SNIPES);

(2) The scheme of SNIPES field stations in universities implemented by NSNIS;

(3) The scheme of Sports Talent Search Scholarships of the Department implemented by NSNIS;

(4) The scheme of All India Rural Sports Tournaments of the Department operated by NSNIS;

(5) The scheme of National Sports Championships for Women of the Department implemented by NSNIS;

(6) The schemes of Grants to National Sports Federations, Association of Indian Universities and School Games Federation of India operated directly by the Department, for holding annual champions hips for juniors and sub-juniors;

(7) The scheme of the Sports Authority of India for holding Sports Talent Search Contest.

In addition Government propose to launch a scheme for setting up sports hostels attached to regional coaching centres of the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports, to enable non-students and even employed persons of some standard to have facilities for improving their performence in sports and games. This will be a scheme of SNIPES operated by NSNIS.

Besides the schemes mentioned above, the holding of Jawaharlal Nehru Hockey Tournament for juniors and sub-juniors and the Subroto Mukherjee Football Tournament, with financial assistance from the Government, provides specific opportunities for the spotting of talent in these disciplines. The Board of Control for Cricket in India, holds annually the Vijay Merchant Tournament and the Cooch Behar Tournament for sub-juniors and juniors with a view to spotting talent in this game.

The All India Women's Hockey Association and the Women's Cricket Association of India are provided assistance by

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Shankar Prasad Mitra.

the Government specifically to encourage women's hockey and cricket.

Government are assisting liberally the national sports federations, whose function it is to prepare national teams for the Asian Games, 1986 and the forthcoming Olympics at Seoul in 1988, so that they are enabled to provide adequate training to our sportspersons to perform creditably at these events. Apart from Government of India providing the financial assistance for the holding of coaching camps and for giving international exposure to national teams, the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports gives the requisite assistance and guidance for the training and coaching of sportspersons called by the Federations to participate in the coaching camps including requisitioning the services of foreign experts where necessary. The progress made in the selection of participants and conduct of coaching camps according to schedule is also being monitored and reviewed by a Coaching and Monitoring Committee with the Minister of State as Chairperson with all concerned including the Federations.

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA: Has the Central Government issued any guidelines to the State Governments regarding programmes for popularing these games at the district level and financial assistance to be given to organizations and associations at the district level?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, Sports is a State subject, and while the primary responsibility is left to the States for popularising and identifying the talent...

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA: You have not understood my question. Has the Central Government issued any guidelines to the State Governments?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I am just coming to that. We can only give from time to time certain assistance, and I would not really say 'guidelines' because the Federations do it in the States as well; we are giving necessary assistance to the State Governments, when necessary, and we do have separate schemes, at the moment which we are financing, and we are assisting the State Governments in this programmes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Second supplementary.

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD MITRA: The question is, has any programme been formulated for educational institutions and Universities run by the Central Government itself?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, we have a scheme of field stations in Universities which is carried out through the NIS, Patiala. We have today 33 field stations in the Universities. We have provided five coaches to each of these field stations for helping training and identifying sports talent in the Universities. We also have sports talent scholarships for students,both at the school and University levels, where we provide annual scholarships, and this has been raised now almost to three times over the last few months.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Sir, it is well known that Maharashtra has emerged as one of the best champions in the country. But when we see the list of sportsmen of ASIAD Games and Olympic Games there is a feeling among the sportsmen of Maharashtra that partiality has been done to them at the time of selection. I would like to ask the hon. Minister if it is so; if not, in what proportion the Maharashtra sportsmen are added in the ASIAD Games and Olympic Games.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, I would beg to differ about this. We do congratulate to the Maharashtra contingent who got the first place in the recent National Games held at Delhi. The selections for the international meets are done by the Sports Federations and they have ample opportunity for conducting training camps, and experts, coaches and others who are there do participate in the final selections. I would not agree that there is partiality.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: About the proportion...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. Mr. Upendra.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: She has not answered my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: She has answered very effectively. You are taking undue advantage..., (*Interruptions*) Yes, Mr. Upendra.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Only metropolitan towns have got the necessary facilities for sportsmen, and if we have to locate new talent it is necessary to build stadia in the district headquarters also so that most of the rural boys can get opportunities to display their talents. There is a scheme initiated by the Andhra Pradesh Government to construct stadia in different district headquarters, called the stadia-cum-cultural centres. During the day time the stadium can be used for sports and in the evening it can be used for cultural programmes. Will the Minister concerned give assistance to those States which have such programmes?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, we do have a scheme for assisting the State Governments in building sports infrastructure at the district levels. Proposals which come through the State Governments to us receive matching grants from the Central Government. If you have a unique scheme in Andhra Pradesh where you are combining sports facilities with cultural activities, you may send it to us to enable us to see whether we can fit it into any scheme.

SHRI S. W. DHABE: Sir, after the 1982 Asian Games at Delhi a very good atmosphere was generated in the country for the development of sports and an important step was taken by the Government to create the Sports Ministry in our country for the first time. Unfortunately, the atmosphere which was created has not been utilised fully by the Government to promote sports in our country. They have taken one good step to create the Sports Authority of India. But another wrong step was taken to abolish the all India Sports Council of India. There is no effective machinery for consultation with the Sports Ministry. What machinery does the Ministry want to create for consultation with the Sports Ministry and Sports Federation from time to time so that their difficulties can be considered and their problems can be sorted out? The performance of our teams at the different international games, especially for getting championship in hockey, reveals that there are two serious problems. One is physical fitness and the other is coaching. In foreign countries like Japan and Germany, they have coaching programmes for the whole year in schools. May I know whether the hon. Minister will have a machinery for consultation with the Sports Federation and establish schools for regular coaching for football and hockey?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: As far as consultations are concerned, the Sports Authority of India does have regular consultations with the Sports Federation and we do have an opportunity for dealing with the problems which come up before us. As far as the sports schools are concerned, I would like to say that the new scheme which has now been announced is that the Sports Authority of India is going to adopt 14 schools for the coming year. Each school will be given Rs. 5 lakhs as support for building infrastructure for sports facilities. (*Interruptions*). We cannot do it only for two items. We want to do it for more games. We want to have competition and the children in the age group of 10 to 12 years are being identified and sent to schools for special training according to their talent.

SHRI VISHVAJIT PRITHVIJIT SINGH: I would like to know from the hon. Minister what proposal is there in front of the Govt. to set up an Institute of Sports in Maharashtra. When is it going to be set up and where it is going to be set up?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: At the moment, we have many places in Maharashtra which do want to have a regional centre. Ultimately, we will go by the recommendations of the State Government. We have referred all the proposals to the State Government because we put up these centres of sports according to the final recommendation of the State Government.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: My question is in three parts. Firstly, during the Fifth Plan there was a scheme to encourage sports fields in colleges. Unfortunately it was discontinued in the Sixth Plan and we do not know what is happening in the Seventh Plan. As a results of this, effort being made to encourage new talents in the districts, in smaller towns, has been affected badly. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to revive such a programme. Secondly, I understand that some of the stadia which were built in Delhi during the ASIAD have become very expensive and are not accessible ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That does not arise out of this question.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: I am coming to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot take very long coming to it. Your time is running out.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: I would like to ask whether special efforts are being made to encourage sports talent in the cities by using the stadia that are available. Thirdly, the various programmes which were there for encouraging the rural children in sports have not been receiving the same attention as they ought to. Although there was a beginning made about five or six years back, the tempo is not the same. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what efforts have been made to encourage the rural children in the rural sports so that they have a greater participation in the national games.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, as far as sports in the schools are concerned, I would like to assure the hon. Member that we are very much involved in making this more effective. The national sports policy which was adopted last year has specially mentioned sports and physical education in educational institutions. In fact, we are thinking of making sports or NCC or some such physical activity part of the school curricula to guarantee that physical fitness of the students is ensured. As far as rural sport is concerned, we already have the All-India Rural Sports Tournaments which are conducted regularly at the district, State and national level. In fact, they are held in four different parts of the country each year. And I know that we have not been able to do as much on the rural side as we should have done. But there is a new thinking and a new direction to this and we do hope that we will be able to carry this programme further on the rural side.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, with the wealth of her experience in Parliament, the hon. Minister is dangerously convincing that because of the efforts of the Ministry, India is likely to emerge as the champions of cricket, football and hockey, male and female, both. I am unwilling to be convinced because I have been connected with one sports organisation. Does the Minister know that there are very irrational restrictions even for import of minimal material which we require for sports? We are unable to import cricket balls of international standards. Will the Ministry at least help us in getting the imports which are necessary for us? This is part (a). Part (b) is that she referred to Rs. 5 lakhs being given to 14 schools, a typical Government method of bestowing favours and patronage. Instead, may I ask that where there are good cricket associations working, such as the one we have in Madhya Pradesh under the Presidentship of Madhavrao Scindia, are you willing to give at least...

SHRI S. W. DHABE: They do not need any money.

AN HON. MEMBER: Madhavrao Scindia does not need any money.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: There are 26 or 27 associations. Are you willing to give us some money to this Association so that we will find talent for you? And the 14 schools are hopelessly inadequate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Salve, you are a lawyer. If they give to Madhvrao Scindia, they will say, according to law, a fraudulent preference.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, I am not trying to under-estimate the role of the federations and the associations in spotting and training new talent. The hon. Member knows about the financial support which is being given to federations and to associations...

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Not a rupee of support has been given to cricket.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Cricket does not need it. We are talking about those who need it. (*Interruptions*). The hon. Member would also agree that Madhavrao Scindia does not need money to sponsor sports in Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Is sports being debated or Madhavrao Scindia is being debated?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, to just mention the schools which the hon. Member has spoken about, the idea is that until special schools can be established, for children who need facilities and who do not have it because they come from rural parts of the country or from backgrounds which are unable to pay and train them in specialised institutions, our effort is to place them in schools where this infrastructure would be available, where training would be available and proper nutrition and other training facilities would be made available to those children in these schools. Until such time as we can put them up ourselves, the idea is to support such schools so that they will take on the responsibility of training these children. The second part is about import of equipment. The federations are authorised to import the necessary equipment and the other requirements which they need. But if there are any bottlenecks or any problems, we are prepared to look into them at any time to help them.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Sir, my friend, Mr. Vithalrao Jadhav, just made certain remarks about Maharashtra. I was the *chief de mission* of a Maharashtra team. And as an office bearer of the Maharashtra Olympic Committee, I would like to state that we have no complaints whatsoever, and if there are any minor complaints, we will sort them out with the charming, sporting Sports Minister. Sir, I would like to relate my question and, of course, my complaint is about paragraph 7 which is about the Sports Authority of India holding sports talent contests...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: *Chamcha, chamcha.*

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: I would love to be a *chamcha*. I would like to...

MR. CHAIRMAN: No personal explanations required. Please put the question.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Sir, this is about the Sports Authority of India which has held a talent contest. Sir, the Sports Authority of India was set up to create infrastructure for sports in the country. Unfortunately, it is indulging in holding talent contest which is the job of the federation. I would like to ask the hon. Minister what the Sports Authority of India has done in the past two years for the promotion of sports facilities except going on foreign tours and having jamboorees in the name of sports talent contests and have been spending lakhs of rupees. I think a crore of rupees has been spent which should have been given to the federation, who are the only authority to find talent, because federations are holding the various tournaments, but we do not have money even to conduct the tournaments.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will be run out.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Sir, my question to the Minister is this that unless the federations who can identify the talent have the money...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You time is up..

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: ...and the Sports Authority of India funds the federations for holding coaching camps, instead of its holding jamboorees in Delhi and selecting 150 people who are not the cream of the country, there can be no improvement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A long question does not necessarily require a long answer.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, I do admit that the federations have a role to play and we are not stopping the federations from conducting their own-search and identifying the talent.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Where is the money?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: The complaint has been made at various times that we have not laid enough emphasis by going to the grase-roots level, the districts, the blocks and identifying new talent and so the new scheme was given to the Sports Authority of India to execute. Now, this was the first time that an attempt has been made.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: They do not have the infrastructure. They just do not have the money.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Let me answer. This is our first efforts which we have made. Sir, we had 1473 young children between the age groups of 10 to 12 who participated. They were selected from blocks, districts and finally at the national level. It may not have been perfect for the first time. After all, we will learn from our experience this time and make it better in the future. But an attempt has been made to identify them and out of these 93 are boys and 65 are girls and these children will be given specialised training because this is new talent which we want to give an opportunity to train for the future.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mohanarangam. *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI N. K. P. SALVE: Sir, I submit next question, may be taken up.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Why did you interrupt, when he called me? *(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am in a very sporting mood.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very particular about the finding of new talent, new male talent, in cricket. We know very well that our country is a very big country with 75 crores of population and cricket is familiar all over the country. Even small countries like New Zealand and Ceylon are defeating our country. I want to know what are the main reasons for our being defeated by these small countries. What about the mode of selection of our players? Is there any outside pressure brought to bear upon these selections by influencing the members of the cricket board? What exactly are their reasons. It is said outside and not on the floor of Parliament that there is discrimination in the matter of selecting our players and there is no proper selection made, and we are not finding the right type of talent. Only on the basis of recommendation and pressure we are selecting the players of the cricket team. Is it a fact? If it is a fact what steps have been taken by the Government to rectify these defects?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, the selections of our national teams are made by the federations. We help with the training which is done through our national coaches and assistance that is needed is provided by the Government. Well, if we are defeated sometimes, we also win sometimes and one must be prepared for both.

SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: We are defeated by small countries.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I know and that is why I would say that today we are involved in finding out why we are not doing so well. And if you have any suggestions, I would welcome them but I can assure you that we are really committed to sending out only the best that we have and the feeling that they only go by pressures and by other considerations, is not quite fair to our players who are going out.

*226. [*Shri questioner (Shri Sukomal Sen) was absent. For answer* vide *col.* 35 *infra*].